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CIA brainwashing hostages, Tass says

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MOSCOW—The U.S. hostages just released from Iran are being brainwashed by CIA agents into believing they were tortured by their captors, the Tass news agency charged Thursday.

Tass said a contingent of CIA brainwashing specialists is with the hostages in Wiesbaden, West Germany, where they were taken Tuesday after being set free.

The brainwashing effort, Tass said, was part of a plot by "influential financial circles" to foil the release agreement with Iran and prevent the return of Iranian assets.

"The American authorities obviously fear that the former hostages could declare for all to hear that they do not have hostile feelings for the Iranian people," Tass said.

TASS SAID the former hostages are being

kept in "full isolation" and that "before they are allowed to meet press representatives, they will be subjected to a detailed interrogation and brainwashing. A big group of CIA experts and psychologists are already there for this purpose."

Tass also accused the U.S. press of engaging in "anti-Iranian hysteria" with reports that American citizens were "allegedly subjected to all sorts of tortures" in Iran.

Behind this "hulabaloo," Tass said, was a plot by U.S. bankers to keep Iranian assets for themselves.

"American banks are taking hasty measures to prevent the return of the assets to Iran," Tass charged. It claimed that "influential financial circles" are reluctant to "re-learn from their hands the wealth of the Iranian people."

IT SAID THE Reagan administration is being pressed to abrogate the release agreement, and that the reports of torture and

mistreatment are intended to sway public opinion in favor of this step.

It noted that a spokesman for the new administration already has refused to commit the Reagan team to honoring the incomplete parts of the agreement.

"Hardly has the ink dried on the signature of the U.S. representatives to the American Iranian agreement on settlement of the so-called hostage crisis than implementation of the provisions of this document is called into question," Tass said.

"Representatives of the White House and the State Department actually refused to undertake commitments that they will honor the terms of the agreement," Tass said.

Western observers saw the Tass statement as one of the first salvos in a Kremlin propaganda campaign to use the bitterness of the hostage issue as a tool for improving Soviet Iranian relations, even though during the hostages' captivity the Soviets failed to turn it to their own advantage in any significant way.